

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05298 251546Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6822

S E C R E T BONN 05298

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN PO GW

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 64026

1. I RAISED THE POINTS IN THE REFTEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON MARCH 24, AND MENTIONED THAT I WOULD ALSO BE TAKING THEM UP WITH FINANCE MINISTER APEL. I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF MARCH 8 TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS IN THAT:

-- THE FRG AGREES FULLY THAT PORTUGAL IS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT.

-- THE FRG HAS BEEN A FIRM ADVOCATE OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL.

-- THE FRG IS FULLY AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING PORTUGAL.

2. GENSCHER ADDED THAT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS IS THE QUESTION OF HOW TO
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APPROACH THE PROBLEM. THE FRG IS NOT AS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE IMF METHOD OF ASSISTANCE AS THE US IS. HOWEVER, THE FRG POSITION IS NOT YET FIRM. WHILE THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE GOAL OF AIDING PORTUGAL, THERE IS CONTINUING DISCUSSION OVER THE BEST METHOD. IN VIEW OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS, THE METHOD OF EXTENDING ASSISTANCE ASSUMES GREAT

IMPORTANCE.

3. I CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT WE HOPE TO
RECEIVE IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE FRG. WE LOOK
FORWARD TO CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS IN THIS MATTER.

4. IN ADDITION TO PLANNING TO MEET WITH FINANCE
MINISTER APEL, WE ARE FOLLOWING UP WITH SENIOR LEVELS
OF THE CHANCELLERY AND FINANCE MINISTRY.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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